UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region 10

DATE: AUG 2 1979

SUBJECT: Pasco City Refuse Site Off Highway 12 Past Airport to Kahlotus Exit, Turn Left Immediately off Highway, Pasco, Washington

FROM: Doug Hansen, Director
Air & Hazardous Materials Divis

RECEIVED
AUG 12 1988
HELLER, EHRMAN

TO: Files

Date: July 25, 1979

While in the Tri-Cities area for a visit to the DOE Hanford operation, I visited the above site with James L. Malm, Eastern Regional Office of the Department of Ecology. It has been rumored that the site contains large quantities of hazardous industrial waste.

The site is on property leased by Resource Recovery Corporation, Seattle, managed by Larry Dietrich and owned by his father. A solid waste landfill and septic tank sludge pond are currently being operated on the property.

According to Larry Dietrich, the site was operated from 1956 to 1971 as an open burning dump and in 1971 was converted to a sanitary landfill. In 1973 or 1974, they received permission from DOE to open a portion of the property as a regional hazardous waste site. It was utilized by a number of industrial firms from Oregon and Washington.

There are three distinct inactive hazardous waste disposal sites on the property. One is a liquid waste lagoon, nearby a pesticide sludge disposal area, and about one eighth of a mile away a paint, oil, solvent, etc. disposal area. DOE reportedly has an inventory of material that was disposed.

Due to local public protest, mainly adjoining farmers who claimed their grapevines were being destroyed by 2,4-D fumes, the hazardous waste site was closed down after a little more than one year's operation.

According to Dietrich, Rhodia Chemical, Portland, Oregon, was shipping approximately 80 drums per day of residue material from their 2,4-D operation. Presumably this is the same type of material that is also stored at Alkali Lake in Southern Oregon. According to several sources, some of the drums were leaking and others had missing bungs at the time of disposal.

Larry Dietrich stated that groundwater is about 70-80 feet below the surface in this area. Adjoining farms were irrigating their fields at the time of this visit. The area has approximately 7-8" rainfall per year. The soil is sandy loam. Apparently there has not been any groundwater monitoring, but an inoperative damaged moisture sensor was noted near the 2,4-D site.

FORM 1320-6 (REV. 3-76)

Upon closing, the 2,4-D site was covered with plastic and earth. Some of the plastic is now exposed due to wind erosion of the cover at one corner of the site, but no exposed drums were noted.

Based upon this visit, I would suggest this as a priority site for visit by our initial assessment team.

cc: Ken Feigner
John Barich
James Malm
Earl Tower